1794

To the Rector and Vestry of the United Congregations
of Christ Church and St. Peter's.

Gentlemen.

Confiding in your candour, and persuaded as we are of your willingness, at all times, to hear the sentiments of your constituents, when delivered in a becoming manner, we take the liberty of addressing you on the present situation of the Reverend Mr. Abercrombie.

He is a native of this place, and from his infancy, has been a constant attendant on our service, in one of the Churches of the United Congregations over which you preside. This being the case, it was natural for him, when he had conceived the design of offering himself as a candidate for the ministry, to wish to be employed in the service of those Churches. It appeared to be the general opinion that an additional minister was wanting. And from the actual appointment of a third minister which took place a few years ago, it might seem that this was also the opinion of the Vestry itself.

Influenced by these sentiments, that which at first occurred to him was to apply to the Vestry for what has been usually termed a Presentation. But mentioning this design to his friends, among whom were some members of the Vestry, they were unanimously of opinion that as the station of a minister in one of the United Churches is now become not only a very important, but, at the same time, a very conspicuous one, the Vestry could not, consistently with propriety, give any candidate a call to it, without having previously an opportunity of hearing him officiate. Changing, therefore, his original purpose, he resolved to make no application to them, until having first

been

been admitted into the order of Deacons, he should be licensed to preach.

Into this order he was accordingly admitted, and near five months have now elapsed during which he has been constantly employed in the service of our churches. So far he appears to have proceeded depending on his own resources, without any prospect, at least without any certain prospect, of reward. It is now high time for him to consider on what footing he is to be in future, whether he is to rely on a settlement here, or to provide one elsewhere; more especially as he has a large family to provide for, and as the expence of living at present in this place is enormous. We have every reason to believe that he is much liked by the people, and that there is scarcely an individual among them who does not wish at least, that it were in the power of the Vestry to do something for him.

Under these circumstances we come forward, to express our reluctance at the idea of parting with a gentleman so agreeable to us, and to the congregations in general; and to request, with all decent earnestness, that, at as early a day as will be consistent with their convenience, the Vestry will be good enough to take the matter under their most serious consideration.

We are sensible indeed, that in the present state of the finances of these churches, the Vestry may not have it in their power to offer him a <u>full</u> salary; yet still thus much at least is in their power, to offer him the appointment; provided that, for the present and until the Vestry shall have it in their power to make better provision for him, he will be content to receive from them such annual income, stating the probable amount of it, as

as shall
with the
voluntar

Philad.
Rich. Foo
Will. Adco
Joseph Ann
John Bar
John Nixo
Archd. M
B. Fulle
Wm Clar
Abra
Ebm Cla
Thos Lea
John Nicho
Jo. Greis
John Harlan
Hilary Ba
Thos Mason
Wm McDow
John Ann

as shall remain to them, after they shall have complied with their existing contracts; leaving the rest to the voluntary contribution of his friends.

We are with respect

Gentlemen

Your most humble Servants

Philad.a 15 May 1794.

Rich.d Footman

Will.m Adcock

Joseph Anthony Jun.r

John Barclay

John Nicole

Andr.w M.call

B. Fuller

Wm. Clark

Abra.m Markoe

Esther Clark

Thos. Leaming Jun.r

John Nicholson

Jo.s Craigbury

John Harland

Hilary Baker

Thos. Mason

Wm. Bowers

John Andrews

Geo. Willing

Benj.a Rush

Rob.t Rundle

Tho.s Morgan Hoyle

Charles Clay

Wm. Hall

John Sitgreaves

James Campbell

Richd. George

Edm.d Dunbien

John Clement Stocker

John Phillips

David Bartholt.

Jn.o Miller Jr.

Runt. Elsworth

Edward Worthington

Wm. B. Hockley

Joseph Turner

Alx.r Wilcocks

Jos.h Bullock

Pearsey Blatchford

Edward Dunant

Wm Mackenzie.

Dan.l Smith

Petition in Favor
of Mr. Abercrombie